REMARKS

Claims 1-12 are pending in the application. Claims 1-5 and 10-12 were withdrawn from consideration as being drawn to non-elected inventions. Claims 6-9 have been amended by the present amendment. The amendment is fully supported by the specification as originally filed (see, e.g., page 21, lines 1-9; and page 24, lines 11-20).

As amended, claims 6-9 of the Applicants' claimed invention recite a cylindrical die roller having a plurality of rows of concave portions or convex portions **being defined with ridge lines** inclined at a predetermined angle of between about 10 degrees and 80 degrees with respect to a circumferential direction of the die roller (see page 21, lines 1-9; and page 24, lines 11-20).

Referring to FIGS. 2 and 3 of the application, the inclination of each of the plurality of rows of concave portions or convex portions is defined by an angle θ, which corresponds to the angle formed by the straight line defined by the ridge lines 4b, 4d with the edge line 7c of the rectangular resin base material 2 (see top plan view of FIG. 2).

As described in the Applicants' specification, the concave portions or convex portions of the die film 1 are transferred from a die roller having the concave portions or convex portions by rotation of the die roller on the resin film (see, e.g., page 11, last paragraph to page 12, first paragraph). Referring to FIG. 5, the concave portions or convex portions of the roller are formed by a cutting tool 21 in an inclined state where the major diagonal line 25 forms a predetermined angle θ with respect to the direction of the rotation axis 23 of the roller. In other words, the predetermined angle θ is the same as the angle θ formed by the ridge lines with respect to an edge line of the resin base material (see page 24, lines 11-20 of specification).

Claims 6-9 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Japanese Publication 11-147255 to "Michiharu". This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Michiharu does not teach or suggest an apparatus or method for producing an optical film in which a cylindrical die roller is formed with a plurality of rows of concave portions or convex portions being defined with ridge lines inclined at a predetermined angle of between about 10 degrees and 80 degrees with respect to a circumferential direction of the die roller.

Michiharu is directed to the manufacture of a light conduction plate, in which a prism shape is engraved on a surface of a pattern roller 1 and transferred to a plate member 4 pinched between the pattern roller 1 and a support roller 2 (see English-language abstract; FIG. 1). The pattern roller 1 and the support roller 2 each contain a heater 3 in inner peripheral parts thereof.

In the Office Action of 05/18/2005, FIG. 3 of Michiharu was cited for allegedly teaching the predetermined angle of 10-80 degrees with respect to a circumferential direction of the die roller (see Office Action, page 2, second to last bullet point).

However, there is no teaching or suggestion in Michiharu of a plurality of rows of concave portions or convex portions having ridge lines that are inclined at a predetermined angle of between about 10 degrees and 80 degrees with respect to a circumferential direction of the die roller. Instead, in FIG. 3 of Michiharu, the pattern roller 1 has a single row of triangular shapes for engraving a thermoplastic resin plate 4 (see engraving operation in FIG. 1).

It is believed that the claims are in condition for immediate allowance, which action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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